



Lac qui Parle Soil and Water Conservation District

122 8th Ave South, Madison, MN 56256

Phone: (320) 598-7321 Ext 3

Website: www.lacquiparleswcd.org

Minutes December 14, 2023

The Lac qui Parle Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors met on Thursday, December 14, 2023, at the Annex, County Multi-Media Room. Board Supervisors present in person: Mike Croatt, Rosemary Weber, Amy Bacigalupo, and Danny Larson. Absent: Daryl Schutte. SWCD Staff present: Rhyan Schicker, Quintin Peterson, Maria Croatt, and Jake Monnens. NRCS Staff present: Kara Ransom. Pheasants Forever Staff: Absent-Kayla Chau. Chairman Weber welcomed everyone, and called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

Agenda:

Croatt made a motion to approve the Agenda as printed. Larson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Minutes:

Larson made motion to approve the Minutes from the November 9, 2023 board meeting. Croatt seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Open Gallery: (2 minutes per person/10 minutes total) – *None*

Conflict of Interest Declaration: *None*

Treasurer's Report:

The checks were reviewed and discussed. Larson made a motion to approve for payment November checks #8029 through #8035 from the United Prairie account and checks #13365 through #133381 from the Old National account. Bacigalupo seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Croatt made a motion to approve the November Treasurer's Report as presented. Larson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

State Cost Share Programs Contracts & Payments:

- State Cost-Share Program: *None*
- Water Plan:
 - WS 2024-01 Ten Mile Lake Twp, Sec 1: Larson made a motion to approve Well Sealing Contracts WS 2024-01. Croatt seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Correspondence: *None*

Reports:

- LqPYB 1W1P Report
 - Schicker reported next Policy meeting is in January, Supplemental funds were applied for, asking for \$1 Million
- Supervisor Report:
 - Croatt reported attending SWMACD Area 5 meeting, 2024 Budget approved including funds for Environmental Fair, Farm Fest, Tribal Liaison, NRCS CSP, PF Hire; Precision Ag Specialist to help with SWCDs; Area 5 TSA Drone complications being worked through; 1 Million Certified Acers; Grant for Soil Health Specialist-discussion on where to get this person; discussion on MS4Front tracking; discussion on Soil Health incentives requiring 1099 tax form, need to collect W9.
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A conflict of interest, whether actual, potential or perceived, occurs when someone in a position of trust has competing professional or personal interests, and these competing interests make it difficult to fulfill professional duties impartially. Supervisors are asked to declare conflicts of interest they may have regarding today's business. Any member who declares a conflict of interest must not vote on that agenda item.

- Partner Agency Reports:
 - NRCS: Fairchild reported 900 CSP applications, LQP had 65, deadline is January 12th; No new EQIP; Rates increasing some, CRP no increase, 1026 still behind as no replacement staff in Marshall; Attended State Convention
 - BWSR: New Board Conservationist is Luke Olson, former Technician for Lyon County, will start January 3 alongside current temporary BC
 - Pheasants Forever: *None*
- Technical Report
 - Peterson reported that Fall seeding is done-257 acres on 30 sites, Tractor was returned to John Deere, Drill stored away for the winter, Spring 2024 has 650 acres already planned, meetings with land owners on 1W1P projects and have good potential, attended Soil Management Summit, TSA Manager meeting, attended-more discussion on Soil Health positions and how to get person, what schooling should be required, possibly share across counties, discussion on technology/software available for contractors to build conservation projects but pricey for them to buy, would like to see BWSR have cost share for contractors.
 - Monnens reported tree plantings for 2024 have 10 planned, most are new groves, 3300 trees ordered to date, expecting more orders to come in for Land owner plantings, do not plan take many more tree planting in order to allow time for seeding, Easement inspections are done, four cost share inspections remaining, Looking for land owners to participate in Drainage water management project with NRCS-five counties wide, AIS funds will be looking at investing in cleaning stations at LqP Lake, Del Clark, will be attending fishing tournament in February.
- Admin Report
 - MaCroatt reported we are looking at updating website host
 - Schicker reported on Water plan money we receive from County, discussion followed, table to review after budget is complete, will look into asking commissioners to asses wells on taxes; attended Convention, Nathan & Dana Buer, 2023 Conservationists of the Year, also attended, good Outreach & Educations, Demos, show off of practices, Q&A panels, lots of funding coming; attended Area 5 meeting, discussion on finding staff from agronomy field likely not feasible with salary match, further discussion on multiple options, still positive on outlook and what is to come.

Old Business:

- *None*

New Business:

- Tractor: Croatt made motion to approve a lease with the same terms from 2023 through Midwest Machinery for similar tractor. Bacigalupo seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried. Second Tractor with possible government program available, will have more information at January meeting.

Personnel:

- *None*

Calendar of Events:

December 14	Regular SWCD Board Meeting
December 25	Christmas (Office Closed)
January 11	Regular SWCD Board Meeting
February 8	Board of Directors Meeting and SWCD Employee Retreat – Daylong event

Adjourn: With no further business, Weber declared the meeting adjourned at 9:37 a.m.

Dan Larson

January 11, 2024

Approved

Date